

eager to deny defendants any semblance of fair play, secure sweetheart consent agreements, and measure their success by fines and jail time imposed—for example, on the Pennsylvania landowner who removed car bodies and old tires from a seasonal stream bed on his land without a federal permit (fined \$300,000).

As Roger Marzulla, a former assistant U.S. attorney general for land and resources, recently put it, "Like the enchanted broomsticks in the story of 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice,' the environmental enforcement program has gotten completely out of control."

Fortunately, a common-sense, fair play, rights-respecting alternative environmental movement has begun to appear. On Earth Day 1999, its member groups—as many as a hundred state and national organizations—are celebrating "Resourceful Earth Day." Their alternative is based on a remark made by Henry David Thoreau, who said, "I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor."

The astonishing growth of science and technology in the past 30 years has proven over and over again that human ingenuity can and will rise to overcome every environmental challenge. Today's energy sources are far cleaner and more efficient than those of 1970, and even more pollution-free new energy devices are emerging from laboratories. New cars today, fueled with improved gasoline, produce 2 percent of the pollution of 1970 cars. Cost-effective resource recovery of everything from aluminum to methane, has made giant strides. Microsensors, global positioning satellites, and tiny computers allow farmers to dispense just the right concentration of fertilizer on every square yard of a field.

The friends of the "Resourceful Earth" believe in progress, not just to make and consume more stuff, but to protect our Earth as well. The tide is with them, and as their creative optimism prevails the better off Mother Earth—and its people—will be.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember a sad day in the world's history. Many of you may not remember this, but this year marks the eighty fourth anniversary of the Armenian genocide. During World War I, at least one million Armenians were killed in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 to 1923.

The brutal treatment that the Armenian people have suffered must never be repeated or forgotten. As a nation, we must never again allow a madman to exterminate an entire race of people to further his political ambitions. Every person and every race has a right to be free and safe in his own home. Those who commit these atrocities are criminals and must be tried for crimes against humanity.

Today as we remember the Armenian genocide, it is with sadness that we again witness a genocide of another race, the Albanian Kosovars. Unlike the Armenian genocide, I am proud to say that the United States and its NATO allies have learned from the past and are taking strong actions to halt the inhuman actions of Slobodan Milosevic and his minions

who so eagerly engage in these atrocious crimes against humanity.

Through the blood of their ancestors, the Armenian people have struggled for their independence. In 1991, Armenia became a sovereign state. I know that the Armenian people and the Armenian-Americans are proud of their state and will forever remember the hardships that they, as a people, have endured to gain their freedom and independence.

On this very somber day, I feel very strongly that we can perform no greater act of remembrance than to express our strong conviction to never again allow genocide to go unchecked in this world and to state unequivocally that the U.S. and its NATO allies will stop at nothing to end the slaughter in Kosovo. We owe at least this much to the memory of the Armenian victims of the Turkish genocide of the First World War.

MEDICARE COVERAGE OF DIABETIC RETINAL EXAMS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 19, the Washington Post ran a story about the failure of Medicare beneficiaries to get adequate preventive care. The article was based on a recent study by Dr. John Wennberg of the Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Wennberg found that the level of retinal eye exams for Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes—so very important for helping prevent blindness in diabetics—was abysmally low. Only 43–45 percent of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes received this critical service.

One reason this important test is not provided more frequently is that, unfortunately, Medicare does not cover this service or pay doctors to do it.

We should.

Today, I am introducing legislation to rectify this omission and add this service to the list of preventive care benefits covered by Medicare—the "Medicare Diabetic Eye Exam Act of 1999."

Diabetes affects over 16 million Americans, and over 150,000 die from diabetes and its complications each year. Individuals of African, Asian, and American Indian descent are particularly vulnerable to this disease. Most of the morbidity and mortality of diabetes is due to the complications associated with the disease, including blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage, and cardiovascular disease.

Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. Studies show that many of the complications of diabetes can be slowed or even prevented by better management of the disease, including regular eye examinations. Studies show that a periodic dilated eye exam is cost-effective in reducing the burden of diabetic retinopathy and blindness.

The Diabetes Quality Improvement Project (DQIP) is an effort to recommend a set of diabetes-specific performance and outcome measures that health plans and providers can use in treating patients with diabetes. DQIP began under the sponsorship of the American Diabetes Association, Foundation for Accountability, Health Care Financing Administration,

National Committee for Quality Assurance, and joined by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, and Veterans Administration. HCFA is asking Medicare+Choice plans to use the DQIP measures this year in improving their care of diabetic Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the plans.

One of the measures contained in DQIP is retinal eye exams. DQIP recognizes that the dilated eye exam may not be necessary for everyone every year, and has developed a risk stratification scheme to guide plans and providers in determining frequency of providing the test.

It is inexcusable that Medicare does not provide coverage and payment for this test that is so critical in preventing blindness. If we expect Medicare+Choice plans to provide this test, we should also provide payment for it. And we should provide payment for it in traditional fee-for-service Medicare, as well.

Following is a copy of my bill. I urge that we add this provision to whatever Medicare bill is enacted by this Congress.

THE EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, yesterday afternoon, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to make it to the House floor to vote in favor of H.R. 1184, The Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999 (rollcall vote No. 95). That is why I rise today to publicly submit my support for this important piece of legislation.

H.R. 1184 will do volumes to help prevent property damage and save lives that result from future earthquakes in the United States—with the ultimate goal of actually predicting seismic activity. The more we understand this natural phenomena, the more we can structure safety mechanisms to keep our communities safe during earthquakes.

I am very pleased that H.R. 1184 passed by such a large margin yesterday. Once again, I regret that I could not be here to lend my additional support. I look forward to witnessing the many scientific advances and future successes which will result from this legislation.

OREGON SCHOOL KIDS StRUT THEIR STUFF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, Students Recycling Used Technology (StRUT) started in June 1995 with the goal of giving Oregon students the technical and business management skills they need for the next century. Over the next two years, four schools in my district: Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Tigard and Sherwood High School, refurbished 1,200 computers and donated them to local schools. This gave the students a working knowledge of computers and